

VANDERBILT'S 'IDLE HOUR' ESTABLISHED

Syndicate of Prominent Men Get Show Place on Long Island.

TO BE USED FOR A CLUB

Country House, Which Cost \$2,000,000, Is Surrounded by 809 Acres.

IN FINE WOODED REGION

Price Is Not Revealed, but It Is Said to Have Been of Fair Proportions.

"Idle Hour," the extensive country estate of the late William K. Vanderbilt, for many years one of the show places on the south shore of Long Island, has been sold to a syndicate of prominent New York men, it became known yesterday. The property, which is in Oakdale, Suffolk county, will be converted into an elaborate country club, fully equipped for year round sports. Prominent among the prospective members of the new club is Harold S. Vanderbilt, who inherited the estate by the terms of the elder W. K. Vanderbilt's will.

Col. Frank Elbridge Webb, who negotiated the purchase and heads the syndicate, confirmed the deal and said the club would be the finest and most exclusive in the United States. The syndicate will take possession January 1, and will open the club in the spring, Col. Webb said. He declined to give the names of his associates, but said they were wealthy young men. He pointed out that the country house, which has forty master's bedrooms, could not be duplicated to-day for \$5,000,000.

Covers Over 800 Acres.

The Vanderbilt estate comprises about 800 acres, a large part of which is heavily wooded. The country house, erected by Mr. Vanderbilt about twenty years ago is said to have cost approximately \$2,000,000. The mansion, visible from the Mott River, which runs past the estate, is located on a bluff at the edge of Great River, fronting Great South Bay. The main building is of two stories, constructed of brick and limestone. In the south wing a three-story structure, is an elaborately equipped glass enclosed indoor tennis court. A dozen miles of roads and woodland are included in the estate. There also are several miles of artificial canals.

Except for brief periods in the autumn the country house has not been occupied by members of the family for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt offered the use of the estate to the Red Cross in 1918 for war purposes. The offer was not accepted.

Price Runs in Millions.

Col. Webb declined to permit any estimate of the amount of money involved in the sale, but in spite of its years of disuse the estate is considered to be worth more than \$1,000,000, and vigorous denials were made that the sale had been made at a sacrifice.

Tumors of a pending sale have pervaded within the last two weeks. At one time it was reported that the Roman Catholic diocese of Brooklyn and Long Island was about to purchase the property for use as a seminary. More recently it was reported that the Southside Sportsmen's Club, which owns the estate, were negotiating for its purchase.

Intensive cultivation of the flower beds on the estate, and the visit of reputed Government agents, had given rise to reports among Long Island folk that the building of the estate might be utilized as a hospital for convalescent ex-servicemen.

APPELLATE DIVISION RULES AGAINST SOVIET

Denied Recognition in Courts of State.

A decision of the Supreme Court holding that the "Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Government" could be a party to that court was reversed by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday when it was ruled that the so-called Soviet Government could not be a party to a lawsuit brought by a foreign state, joining as defendants Cibernario and several motion picture concerns.

WIFE NAMES 5 'OTHER WOMEN'; GETS DECREE

Court Refuses to Allow Edward H. Heine to Speak.

Mrs. May Heine of 420 East 134th street, The Bronx, named five co-respondents yesterday in action before Judge Richard H. Mitchell in Bronx Supreme Court for divorce from Edward H. Heine of 300 East 166th street, and won a decree and \$20 a week alimony. As the trial was closing Heine rose and asked if he could speak to the court.

"This court cannot lower its dignity to hear you or address you," said Justice Mitchell. "Whatever the defendant has to say will have to be voted by counsel."

Two of the women named, Mrs. Elizabeth Allen, 115 East 106th street, and Mrs. Melrose Walsh, 401 East 127th street, were taken from the courtroom by Heine had been shown attention to Mrs. Mary Areen, address unknown, and Miss Marie Mills, 22 West 11th street, and had bought clothing for an unnamed French girl.

422 STREET BEGGAR MAKES \$60 A DAY IN A FUR COAT

Other Mendicants Revealed in Crusade of Merchants' Association Run From \$20 to \$40—Opulent Fakirs Spend Week-Ends at Seashore.

Kind hearted persons passing along Forty-second street missed during the week the faces of many of the peddlers and beggars with whom they have become well acquainted. The reason the peddlers and the beggars were not there was because the police, prodded by the Forty-second Street Property Owners and Merchants Association of 20 East Forty-second street, had taken the choice of them in custody and had discovered that at least one of the band had been averaging \$60 a day for five days' work, which is at the rate of \$12,000 a year.

Taken to court the Wallingford among the beggars declared that the money peddler in so fast he could scarcely keep an accurate account, but \$50 a day would not overdo it. It was such strenuous business picking up the coins tossed his way that he had to go to Atlantic City week ends, he said, to recuperate. This by the authority of a statement contained in a report issued yesterday by the Forty-second street association describing its activities in driving the beggars from the district.

Others said their earnings were more modest. Some took in only \$20 a day and some took in \$30 or \$40 a day, but to employ watchers, or thought they did, to ward them of the approach of the police. There were many difficulties in the way of begging. Those taken in the roundup were not found legitimate beggars, but were in the main healthy men who might have worked honestly as longshoremen or dish washers at wages of \$20 to \$40 a week.

One of the incidental details of the public victimizing was that many of the beggars bought fur coats and still remained at their occupation. Those passing by, hurried, and touched to the heart, threw their money into the tinkling cups or in the hats on the pavement. Fur coats, the police reported, have been observed of late also among beggars in the Thirty-fourth street district.

To the magistrates the fur coated band whinnily protested that it was unreasonable that in freezing weather they should cling to torn and shredded clothing merely because they were in the business of begging. In the roundup, Edward W. Forrest, secretary of the district, yesterday said there have been 246 arrests and 243 convictions.

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MRS. MARION SMITH SUES FOR \$200,000

Bishop Is One of Several Named in Action Charging Slander.

ECHO OF WAR WORK

Trouble Result of Split on Observance of Poppy Day Last Year.

FRENCH REPORT INVOLVED

Plaintiff Aiding Orphans Alleges Loss of Social Prestige—Sensation Promised.

Mrs. Marion McAllister Smith, formerly Miss Mercedes Leigh, an actress, has brought suit in the Supreme Court for \$200,000 damages, alleging slander and naming as defendants several prominent men and a woman representative of the wife of the President of France, Mme. Anne Guerin.

Besides Mme. Guerin the defendants are the Right Rev. Herbert Shipman, Suffragan Bishop of the Episcopal diocese of New York; Maurice Leon, a lawyer and a representative of the French Government here during the war; George W. Burleigh, a member of the law firm of DeLafayette, Thorne & Burleigh; Barry N. Smith, formerly head of the National Information Bureau; Bronson Batchelor, Inc., a publicity agency, and Roger B. Jenkins, an officer of the agency.

The trouble out of which the suit grew began when different factions of French war workers in this country disagreed last year about the observance of Poppy Day, which was designed to raise about \$1,000,000 for French war orphans. The complaint filed by Mrs. Smith declares that the defendants conspired to "slander and blacken her reputation" by circulating a story that she was a French courtesan and that under the name of the Duchesse de Villandra she had served a term in a French prison.

Mrs. Smith alleges that as a result of these stories and conspiracies her work as State chairman of the American and French League was interfered with and that President Harding withdrew his support to her plan for raising funds for the French orphans. She declares also that her social position has suffered through the circulation of the alleged slanderous stories and that her mental and physical anguish has been great. Friends and relatives of Mrs. Smith said that when the suit came to trial they will produce evidence that will startle the whole United States.

She will prove, her friends say, that Barry Smith told her that she had been a French courtesan and that under the name of the Duchesse de Villandra she had served a term in a French prison. Mrs. Smith declares that while it is true that a Duchesse de Villandra was convicted of crime in 1906, there is nothing anywhere to show that she had ever used the names of Smith and Leigh, and that the circulation of the alleged report of the French Government in this country was a slander.

The American and French League, of which Mrs. Smith was State chairman, was formed in November, 1919, by Mrs. Smith and Mrs. George Crosby Ferrie of Baltimore as patronesses. After the break over Poppy Day a new organization was formed, known as the French American League, and Mrs. Smith joined by the persons named in Mrs. Smith's suit.

Mrs. Smith formerly was Miss Mercedes Leigh, a member of a prominent Texas family. Her first marriage was to Thomas C. Miles of Philadelphia, whom she sued for divorce within two months. He died before the suit was tried. In 1906 she was married to Mary McAllister Smith, a son of the late Gov. Smith of Rhode Island. On the stage she was known as Miss Leigh.

LAWYERS INVOLVED IN BIG BOND THEFTS

Easterday Says They Advised Wall Street Raid.

The police expect to recover at least \$1,500,000 more of the bonds stolen in the \$5,000,000 Letourneau bond theft, it was learned yesterday, as the result of information they have received. Yesterday, one of those indicted, understood to have been brought to New York from a Washington jail within the last few days, and the information is said to have come from John T. Dooling, Assistant District Attorney, who is investigating Easterday's story, it is said.

Saul S. Myers, attorney for a surety company that lost heavily through the Letourneau case, filed a statement last night in which he asserts that "Easterday had involved various persons whose names have not heretofore been mentioned in connection with these Wall Street bond thefts, particularly certain lawyers who yesterday said, according to the whole scheme and were cooperating and were paid for so doing out of the proceeds of the stolen securities."

Two men who said they were revenue agents fired three shots in West Orange, N. J., last night apparently without effect, and then fled in a car. The men shot at Joseph McFarland and William E. Stanton, employees of the S. L. Dowd grocery on Watchung street, West Orange. McFarland said he was in the left side of the car near the heart and another in his forearm and Stanton was shot through the lungs. Both are in a serious condition in Orange Memorial Hospital.

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\$500,000,000 Expected in Dec. 15 Tax Payment

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Receipts from the December 15 installment of income and profits taxes are expected to reach half a billion dollars, according to preliminary reports received to-night by the Treasury. While it is too soon to estimate accurately the total for the quarter, early reports indicate that the Treasury's original estimate of \$500,000,000 will be realized.

'MASONIC BURGLAR' SEIZED IN GUN FIGHT

William Matelski Had Been Paroled From Forty Year Sentence.

A burglar shot by Detective Seckinger early yesterday at the home of Nathan Halperin, 1519 President street, Brooklyn, was identified as William Matelski, "Masonic burglar," who was sentenced to forty years in Sing Sing for a Brooklyn robbery in 1906, and who is regarded as one of few present day "two-gun" desperadoes. When arrested he gave the name of William Martin.

Matelski broke a glass in a rear door of the Halperin home, awakening Mr. Halperin, who sent a telephone call to the police. The burglar ransacked the house, but when he slipped out the kitchen door two detectives started for him. Matelski drew both of his revolvers, but they failed to discharge, and Detective Seckinger shot him over the right eye and in the right shoulder. The wounds are not serious.

Matelski was paroled by Gov. Smith after serving thirteen years. The detective believed Matelski may have been one of the five men who stole \$8,000 from a safe in the home of John J. Brady, at 875 St. Mark's avenue, a neighbor of Nathan Halperin, who was arrested by Commissioner Denham, under five years sentence in Sing Sing for the robbery, had connected Matelski with the crime.

Matelski gained the title "Masonic burglar," when he was convicted of robbing the home of George A. Gale, 117 Bainbridge street, Brooklyn. Observing a Masonic ring on the finger of Gale, who awoke, Matelski said he was a Mason himself and would steal nothing if allowed to escape. Gale acquiesced, but discovering some jewelry missing, notified the police.

Three bandits held up five men in an office at 74 Schiff Parkway late yesterday, obtaining \$1,300 in cash, a \$1,000 check and jewelry valued at about \$1,000. It was at the night rush hour, and Delancey street was jammed with crowds. As the bandits left Max Tanenbaum, a bondman, who was one of the victims, smashed a window and yelled.

The bandits, who had descended to the street, were showered by glass. According to Tanenbaum's report they looked up, asked "What's the matter with you?" and slipped into the crowd without suspicion being aroused. Among the victims was Jacob Cooper, a clerk, who had only 45 cents. Tanenbaum lost \$1,200 in cash, a \$1,000 check, his watch and a stickpin. Isadore Rosenwasser thought to save an \$800 diamond ring, and dropped it on the floor, but one of the bandits picked it up and slipped it in his pocket. Israel Bell and Tanenbaum's son Samuel were the other victims.

A man who held one hand clenched against the cheek of a man who looked up, asked "What's the matter with you?" and slipped into the crowd without suspicion being aroused. Among the victims was Jacob Cooper, a clerk, who had only 45 cents. Tanenbaum lost \$1,200 in cash, a \$1,000 check, his watch and a stickpin. Isadore Rosenwasser thought to save an \$800 diamond ring, and dropped it on the floor, but one of the bandits picked it up and slipped it in his pocket. Israel Bell and Tanenbaum's son Samuel were the other victims.

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